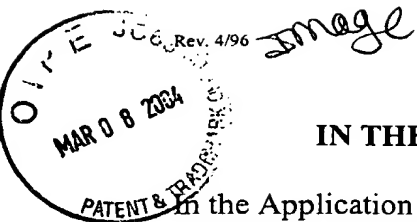


1637



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:
CHAUHAN *ET AL.*

CASE NO.: BC1032 US NA

SERIAL NO.: 09/823,373

GROUP ART UNIT: 1637

FILED: 30 MARCH 2001

EXAMINER: FREDMAN, J. N.

FOR: ISOLATION AND EXPRESSION OF A GENE
FOR A NITRILASE FROM *ACIDOVOROX*
72W

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

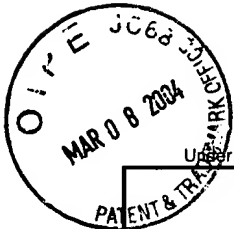
Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Reply is filed in response to the Non-final Office Action, mailed 4 December 2003. It is filed within the shortened statutory period under a certificate of deposit. Please enter the following amendments and remarks and reconsider the application.

Claims 1-4, 6-20, 24-47, and 49 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, and 24-45 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 5, 21-23, and 48 are cancelled. Claims 10, 12, 14, 20, and 47 are allowed. Claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 13, 15-19, 46, and 49 stand rejected.

The numbering of the sections in the Remarks section (pages 8-14) corresponds to that of the pending Office Action.



Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 4 March 2004
Date


Signature

Linda Axiamethy Floyd

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.

Appl. No. 09/823,373

Docket No.: BC1032 US NA

Response Under 37 CFR 1.111

Postcard

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.8. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.8 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.